

Interaction in Academic Discourse in English & Persian: A Corpus-based Study of Metadiscourse Features

Abstract

Metadiscourse features are the rhetorical devices which are deployed by the authors to construct the interaction with the prospective readers. Accordingly, this study was an effort to unveil the distributional pattern of metadiscourse features in academic discourse in English and Persian based on Hyland's category. To this end, a do it yourself (DIY) corpus of 1570786 tokens was compiled out of 273 texts in English and Persian languages and was analysed via Sketch engine corpus software. The statistics demonstrated that the Persian corpus contained more metadiscourse features in comparison with the English corpus. Likewise, it was found out that although the Persian corpus was interactive oriented, the English corpus was mostly interactional one. In addition, the analysis of the concordance lines mirrored that the way interaction between writer-reader is constructed in English and Persian differed significantly. The findings of this research are hoped to have implications in such fields as contrastive linguistics, corpus linguistics, genre analysis and contrastive analysis.

Keywords: Metadiscourse Features, Interactive and Interactional Metadiscourse Features, Contrastive Linguistics, Academic Discourse, Corpus Linguistics, English and Persian Languages